

**SBSG Field Meeting – Starling Roost at Middleton Moor, north Derbyshire
Sunday 17 December 2023 – from 2pm**



As our 50th anniversary comes to a close, the SBSG Committee thought we'd try and squeeze one last field trip in before the end of our landmark year. This one has pub nearby too!

One of the earliest surveys the Group carried out following its inception in December 1972 was on the numbers of roosting Starlings. Much has changed since the days of having a significant roost in the Sheffield City Centre on a winter's evening, but the Starling roost at Middleton Moor in north Derbyshire has thankfully persisted and continues to attract visitors from far and wide.

Up to 100,000 birds have utilised this site in the past and the murmuration display prior to roosting can be both spectacular and inspiring in equal measure. The link below from YouTube provides a flavour of what can be expected in a good Starling year:

<https://youtu.be/2vqYVGvaWQQ?si=KUXHLSXEIvAMLpEs>

With encouraging early signs so far this autumn, we've decided to meet on Sunday 17th December from 2pm in an attempt to witness this spectacle, although it will still be down to the birds to perform.

If all else fails, there's the gull roost on the nearby lagoon and The Moon Inn in Stoney Middleton on the way home, should anyone fancy a cheeky half on the way home...

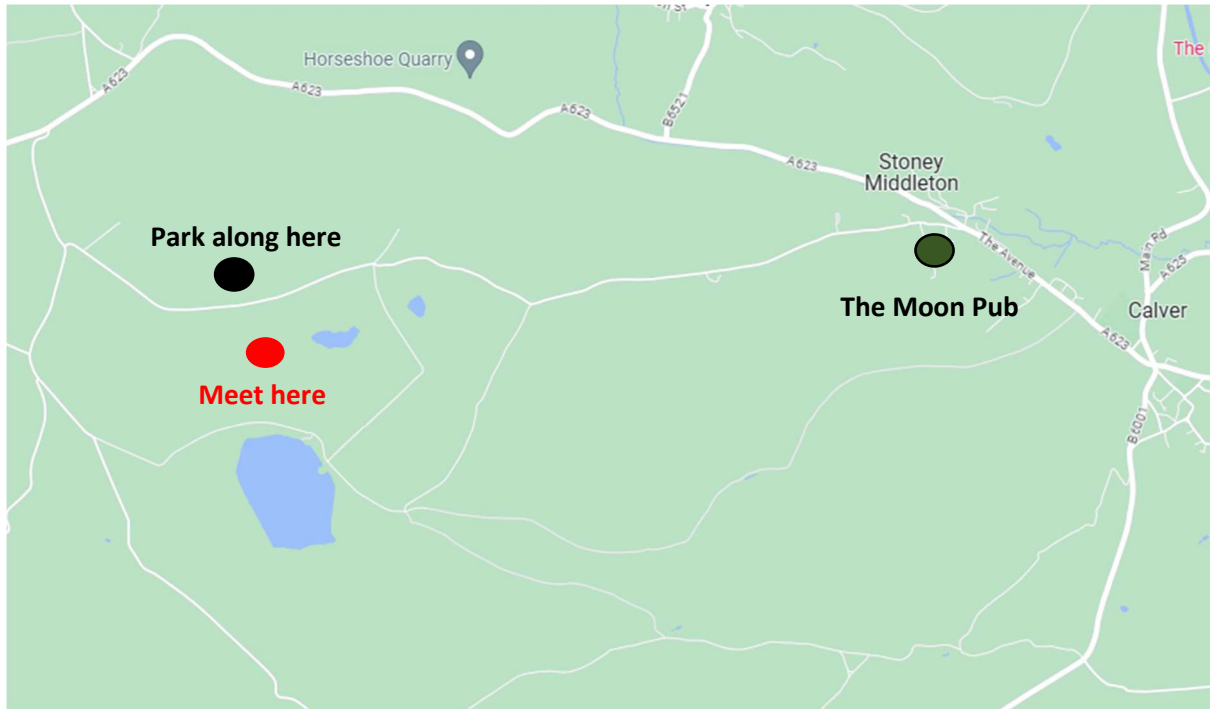
Directions:

From the crossroads at Calver, take the A623 west towards Tideswell and Chapel-on-le-Frith. After passing through Stoney Middleton village, drive for a couple of miles before passing the right turn to Foolow village. Take the next left shortly after signposted Cavendish Mill and follow the road round, before

taking the first left again up and over the brow of the hill. Park sensibly on the right-hand side of the road near the lay-by and then find the footpath which heads south over the fields to where you can overlook the roost site in the reedbed and get in position for the Starling arrival.

Google map reference: [53.270776, -1.700367](https://www.google.com/maps/place/53.270776,-1.700367)

Middelton Moor – Map with car parking and meeting point



Should Starling numbers fizzle out before December, it's possible we might postpone this event until further notice, but please keep an eye on the SBSG website in advance of the field meeting at www.sbsg.org

Should the Starlings perform, there may be an impromptu festive celebration in The Moon pub at Stoney Middleton on the way home. Here's to Starlings and another 50 years!

**Richard Hill
Chair - SBSG**